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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 2 July 1951

SUBJECT Religious Persecution; Health Conditions

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1X

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Members of the Communist Party are reportedly spreading propaganda to the effect that "the Church serves the interests of the Western Powers and of capitalism." For this reason, say the propagandists, members of the Party must be opposed to the Church.

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2.

Mohammedans, it refused to collaborate with and serve the interests of the Communist Party. There were formerly 400 - 500 Catholic priests in the district of Shkoder; at present there are only about 20, and Catholic schools at Shkoder, Tirana, and Durres have been closed. The Catholic churches are still open, but because of the lack of priests, services are held both in the afternoon and in the morning by the few remaining priests, who make circuit trips to several villages. Most people, terrorized by the state authorities, do not attend these services.

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3.

December 1950, he heard that an epidemic of exanthematic typhus had broken out in Shkoder. The district of Skenderbeg was quarantined, and anti-typhus injections were being given. In August 1950, in the vicinity of Shkoder, an epidemic of German measles broke out among very small children; while the epidemic did not last for long, the disease was reportedly often fatal.

4.

The hospital at Lesh, which has been in operation since 1946, is housed in a building belonging to the Catholic Church; the hospital staff includes one physician, two male nurses and two female nurses.

5.

There are about 30 persons in the Shkoder Home for the Aged; the work done by the inmates, according to informant, is determined by the particular skills and physical ability of each individual.

6.

In Vlone there is an insane asylum, located about one kilometer southeast of the city; while informant does not know the exact number of patients, he reported that there were "quite a few."

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